

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /088 R

DRAFTED BY STR:RHEIMLICH:TI

APPROVED BY STR:WKELLY

STATE:MGOLDMAN

COMMERCE:WCAVITT

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P R 162214Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE PETITION

1. DOMESTIC STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE MANUFACTURERS HAVE REQUESTED EITHER EXTENSION OF FLATWARE TARIFF RATE QUOTA OR EXEMPTION OF THEIR IMPORTED MATERIALS FROM SPECIALTY STEEL QUOTA ON GROUNDS THAT COMBINED EFFECTS OF ENDING TARIFF RATE QUOTA ON FLATWARE AND RESTRICTING IMPORTED MATERIALS SUPPLIES WOULD SERIOUSLY DISADVANTAGE DOMESTIC FLATWARE MANUFACTURERS. PETITION HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY AVOIDING MENTIONING IT IN DISCUSSIONS

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WITH JAPANESE.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN FOLLOWING INFORMATION NEEDED TO
EVALUATE INDUSTRY PETITION:

(A) ANY DETAILS ON SPECIALTY STEEL EXPORTER'S CARTEL THAT
WOULD AFFECT PRICE OR AVAILABILITY OF FLATWARE MATERIALS
TO U.S. MARKET (PRINCIPAL MATERIAL FORM APPEARS TO BE 18
CHROME WEIGHT STAINLESS STEEL STRIP). INFORMATION ON
HISTORICAL VOLUME OF MATERIALS EXPORTED TO U.S. FLATWARE
MANUFACTURERS ALSO WOULD BE HELPFUL. FYI: DURING FIRST
FOUR WEEKS OF QUOTA JAPAN USED 21 PERCENT OF SHEET AND

STRIP AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS; 34 PERCENT
OF PLATE; 18 PERCENT OF BAR; 22 PERCENT OF ROD; AND 29
PERCENT OF TOOL STEEL.

(B) CURRENT INFORMATION ON AVERAGE PRICES OF STAINLESS
HOOP AND STRIP STEEL EXPORTED FROM JAPAN TO KOREA, TAIWAN,
AND THE UNITED STATES CONSISTENT WITH DATA REPORTED ON
PAGE 74 IN ITC REPORT 759 (MARCH 1976). ANY CHANGES IN
JAPANESE EXPORT POLICY VIS-A-VIS THESE COUNTRIES THAT
WOULD AFFECT RELATIVE COSTS OF IMPORTED MATERIALS SHOULD
BE REPORTED.

(C) ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EMBASSY FEELS WILL BE OF
ASSISTANCE IN EVALUATING EFFECT OF SPECIALTY STEEL OMA ON
PRICE AND VOLUME OF JAPANESE EXPORTS OF MATERIALS TO U.S.
FLATWARE MANUFACTURERS.

3. REPLY REQUESTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN
C.O.B. JULY 28, 1976. HABIB

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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